Assembly Resolution No. 711

BY: M. of A. Buttenschon

HONORING William Arthur III upon the occasion of his induction into the Rome Sports Hall of Fame on July 27, 2025

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to outstanding athletes who have distinguished themselves through their exceptional performance, attaining unprecedented success and the highest level of personal achievement; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor William (Bill) Arthur III upon the occasion of his induction into the Rome Sports Hall of Fame, to be celebrated on July 27, 2025; and

WHEREAS, A native son of Rome, New York, and a proud graduate of Rome Free Academy (RFA), Bill Arthur was a standout three-sport athlete in the mid-1960s, excelling in football, baseball, and swimming, and building the foundation for a life of achievement on and off the field; and

WHEREAS, On the gridiron, Bill Arthur was a formidable three-way starter-playing fullback on offense, linebacker on defense, and punter on special teams-who played a key role in leading RFA to an undefeated season in 1965; and

WHEREAS, Equally accomplished in the classroom, Bill Arthur earned the Anthony "Slim" Mezza Award for academic excellence, demonstrating the discipline, intellect, and leadership that would define his later pursuits; and

WHEREAS, A state-ranked swimmer and All-Central Oneida League pitcher in baseball, Bill Arthur's athleticism was evident across multiple sports, earning him the admiration of coaches, teammates, and competitors alike; and

WHEREAS, Highly recruited by Division I colleges, Bill Arthur chose Cornell University, where he transitioned to quarterback and continued punting, ultimately leading the Ivy League in punting in 1970 and playing a key role in the backfield alongside future Heisman Trophy runner-up Ed Marinaro; and

WHEREAS, Upon graduation, Bill Arthur returned to his hometown of Rome, where he dedicated several years to teaching and coaching at RFA, mentoring student-athletes including standout quarterbacks Joe Mortis and Ricky McClain, and giving back to the community that shaped him; and

WHEREAS, Bill Arthur later relocated to Houston, Texas, where he found lasting success in the hospitality industry, beginning at the city's convention and visitor's bureau and advancing to leadership roles with Wyndham Hotels Resorts of Texas and The Woodlands Executive

Conference Center and Resort; and

WHEREAS, Through every chapter of his life-as a scholar-athlete, educator, coach, and business professional-Bill Arthur has embodied excellence, integrity, and community spirit; and

WHEREAS, Induction into the Rome Sports Hall of Fame is a fitting tribute to Bill Arthur's decades of achievement and a meaningful acknowledgment of the enduring impact he has had on generations of student-athletes and colleagues; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor William Arthur III upon the occasion of his induction into the Rome Sports Hall of Fame on July 27, 2025, recognizing his extraordinary athletic accomplishments, educational contributions, and professional success; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to William Arthur III.